

REMARKS

The most important difference between the invention and the prior art resides in the manner in which the water-repellent film is bonded to the resin body of the case.

By way of example, in Lake et al., a microporous plastic film is used as a vent and is fitted to a housing by insert molding, which, as explained by Lake et al., at column 5, lines 25-38, is a process in which "the housing is molded substantially around said membrane in a manner which secures said membrane in the housing." In Vincent, a filter is force-fit into a seat, as explained at column 2, line 15. In Amberg, the margin of a sheet of filter paper impregnated with a water-repellant, is secured to a plastic wall of a container by heat and pressure (column 2, lines 68-69).

None of the art of record suggests the Applicants' concept of integrally bonding a film to a resin body by the heat and/or pressure applied by a molten resin in the process of injection molding of the resin body. As set forth in claim 1, as currently amended, the "water-repellent film is bonded to said resin body by heat and/or pressure applied by the molten resin of which said resin body is formed when said molten resin is injection-molded." In the invention, the water-repellant film is securely attached to the resin body of the case without the need for additional equipment or additional steps. The invention as now set forth in claim 1 represents an advance in the art which is neither anticipated, nor shown to have been obvious, by the art of record.

Claims 13-18 was rejected under §103 on Lake and Vincent. Each of these claims has now been amended to recite that the portion of the resin body surrounding the periphery of the through hole comprises a boss surrounded by an annular groove, and that the water-repellent film overlies, and is bonded to, a radial tip surface of the boss. This feature, as explained

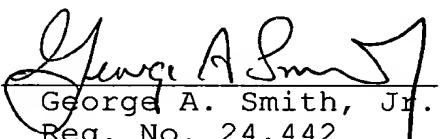
in Applicant's specification, affords several advantages, including the secure positioning of the film during injection molding, and high bonding strength due to the application of pressure by the resin in a direction perpendicular to the film (by the resin forming the boss). This concept is also entirely absent from Vincent, whose filter is force-fit by friction to the side wall of a central hole, rather than bonded to a radial surface, and whose annular groove is for the purpose of protecting the filter from running water, as explained at column 2, line 60-64.

Withdrawn claims 19 and 20 have been cancelled solely in order to obviate further communication in order to place this application in condition for allowance. The Applicants may present claims directed to the die in one or more divisional applications.

The claims as amended herein now define subject matter that is neither anticipated nor shown to have been obvious by the prior art. Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the application are requested.

Respectfully submitted,
HOWSON & HOWSON

By


George A. Smith, Jr.
Reg. No. 24,442
Howson & Howson
Box 457
Spring House, PA 19477
Telephone: 215 540 9200
Facsimile: 215 540 5818